Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
12/16/75

Sen. Richard S. Schweiker
Room 347, Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Dick,

I can imagine how busy you stay when your thoughtful and appreciated note of the 25th wasn't mailed until Saturday. I did not expect the check but I do welcome it. While I would like to have been able to send a copy of Post Mortem to each Member on both sides, it was impossible. Neither with this book nor a year ago, with Whitewash IV and the transcript and related documents I thought it would be good for Members to be able to read, was it possible to get any help at all.

Because you deal with people, have to make decisions and judgements, perhaps an explanation can be of help to you.

As you know, there are many milking the campuses and making other appearances often lurid in content and from the letters reaching me bearing little relationship to reality. The subject has become "hot" again and offers what different kinds of people see as personal advvantages. In more than a year I have not received a single order for any one of my books that I can attribute to any one of these people or to any single appearance. Yet the content of both books and some of my earlier ones is unique. To me this represents a special kind of selfishness of which I believe people in your position can be and already have been the innocent victims.

All but the fourth part of Post Mortem could have appeared years ago but we could not pay for it. I tried to borrow the money to print Whitewash IV from two of the more affluent of the so-called critics. Both refused. One pretended he would and did not. Jim Lesar spoke to him. Jim, who also could not afford it, borrowed the money with which we paid the printer. I have since paid it back, with interest, from sales for which there was not a penny for advertising or promotions except for a mailing for which I borrowed the money. In about 1971 I asked a "critic" whose wealth is estimated at $50,000,000 to lend me enough to print Post Mortem. He refused.

Although we have almost no regular income there was an increased interest in my earlier books beginning with Watergate. We decided to put this money aside in an escrow account to be able to keep them in print when the need came. It will be soon.

Once Congress began to show an interest I felt an obligation to bring Post Mortem out. I decided to jeopardize the chances of keeping the older books in print to do it and to borrow against my property to pay the printer. However, several fees for consultation on the McDonald fraud and a sale of ancillary rights made up the difference. Again we sent out a mailing and again the results are gratifying. We have recovered more than 20% of the mechanical costs (only) and will be able to reprint the first of the earlier books when we have to soon. But in the month that Post Mortem has been out there is no single sale I can attribute to one of those mentioned above. I know because I package each order, not the way I'd prefer to spend my time. While it is less of a burden because I do most of it when I have to spend times with my legs elevated from the phlebitis, there are other projects that could be more productive for the interests we share.

One of these is going forward well. Jim and I have forced the Department of Justice and the FBI to disgorge suppressed evidence in the King assassination in

C.A. 75- 1996. I expect more but what I have received is enough to justify a Judiciary committee separate investigation. It has forced the Department and the FBI to launch a counter-campaign of its own with exclusive private offers to the major media, some of whom have been in touch with me. I have aborted one aspect of one and hope to at least diminish the impact of another.

Yesterday we had to agree to give the Department a month's delay in filing an answer to my appeal in the suit reported in the fourth part of Post Mortem. In return we obtained their promise not to oppose our move to expedite oral arguments.

Meanwhile, I am exhausting administrative remedies on other FOIA projects.

In all of this, in all these suits filed and pending, not one of the people to whom I refer above has offered any help, not even typing.

I'm not giving you a hard-luck story. I have other purposes. Otherwise I'd not be taking this time.

While they do not distinguish between the committee and your subcommittee I hear from those who have been spoken to and who have appeared. I am in a position to evaluate much of it, including your direction. I know some of the people fairly well, some for close to a decade, what they have and have not told you and what reality is. Under the circumstances, the only way I can help is to try to find time to finish putting together the work I had to lay aside years ago. With the phlebitis slowing me down much.

I do hope that behind the scenes your efforts have produced more than has appeared. I'd like to be wrong in the advice I offered when we met. As of today my opinion has not changed. I also believe that if you have some success it will be less than it could have been.

For two years there has been no doubt in my mind that this whole thing would be coming apart. My only questions were when and how. I think it will be a new national trauma if a few goats are sacrificed. This is one of the reasons behind the advice I offered. I do fear it. I do fear that no staff, no matter how large or able, can learn enough in a short time to discriminate enough. And I do know how early some of the most culpable took steps to this end.

I hear you have obtained new information, including some for which I have filed. If you can properly let me have copies perhaps I can be of help to you with it.

Thanks again for your thoughtfulness. Good luck!!

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

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